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DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006

| APPLICATION NO.                        | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/663,623                             | 09/16/2003  | John Vanden Hoek     | 11998.55US01        | 1901             |
| 7590 02/23/2006                        |             |                      | EXAMINER            |                  |
| Merchant & Gould P.C.<br>P.O. Box 2903 |             |                      | KRAMER, NICOLE R    |                  |
| Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903             |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             |                      | 3762                |                  |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|   | Application No.   | Applicant(s) |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--------------|--|--|--|--|
|   |   | Applicant(s) |  |  |  |  |
| Office Action Comment   | 10/663,623  | HOEK ET AL.  |  |  |  |  |
| Office Action Summary   | Examiner  | Art Unit     |  |  |  |  |
|   | Nicole R. Kramer  | 3762         |  |  |  |  |
| The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply  |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| Status  |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 Se  | 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2003.   |              |  |  |  |  |
| 2a) This action is <b>FINAL</b> . 2b) This  | This action is <b>FINAL</b> . 2b) This action is non-final.   |              |  |  |  |  |
| • •   | Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is |              |  |  |  |  |
| closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.   |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| Disposition of Claims   |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| 4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-24</u> is/are pending in the application.   |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.  |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.   |   |              |  |  |  |  |
|   | 6) Claim(s) is/are rejected.  |              |  |  |  |  |
| 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.   | Jantina annimana  |              |  |  |  |  |
| 8)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-24</u> are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.  |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| Application Papers  |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| 9) The specification is objected to by the Examine  | r.  |              |  |  |  |  |
| 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).   |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of:  |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.   |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No  |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage   |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).   |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  |   |              |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| Attachment(s)   |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)   |   |              |  |  |  |  |
| 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Da   | ate          |  |  |  |  |
| 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  Paper No(s)/Mail Date  5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  6) Other:  |   |              |  |  |  |  |



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## **DETAILED ACTION**

## Election/Restrictions

- 1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-18, drawn to a method of applying a cardiac support device to a heart, classified in class 600, subclass 016.
  - II. Claims 19-24, drawn to a device for placing a cardiac support jacket onto a heart, classified in class 600, subclass 016.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case, the method as claimed can be practiced by hand (i.e., the surgeon positions the jacket around the heart by applying a pulling force to the jacket), or by another materially different apparatus such as a tubular structure which does not have a second tubular member oriented within the first tubular member. In addition, the device as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process, such as applying a sling to holding other internal organs besides the heart.

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3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. A telephone call was made to Julie R. Daulton on Feb. 8, 2006 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicole R. Kramer whose telephone number is 571-272-8792. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on 571-272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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